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Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Water Rights

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State Engineer/Division Director

August 5, 2010

Ray Owens, Water Commissioner
Upper Sevier River
280 North 100 East
Joseph UT 84739

Jim Walker, Water Commissioner
Lower Sevier River
PO BOX 485
Delta UT 84624

Re: Sevier River Automation

Dear Ray and Jim:

In connection with this letter, I also sent a letter to the Sevier River Distribution System Committee regarding the use of the digital data gathering and gate automation system and the impact it has had on the efforts of the water commissioners on the Sevier River. You should have received or will soon receive a copy of that letter.

I hope to have a meeting with the committee sometime this fall and there is some information that I need from you to prepare for that meeting.

Please describe in some detail how the requirements of the water commissioner position have changed over the past 10-15 years since digital data gathering and gate automation has become prevalent in the distribution system.

Please describe how you spend your time and effort now as water commissioners: what tasks do you do throughout a regulation season and how much time and effort is required by each task.

Which tasks are additional effort that is now required as a result of the installation of the digital data gathering and gate automation system?

Please describe the challenges or frustrations that you experience in your efforts to maintain and operate the technology of the new system.

I understand that you continue to use Stevens Recorders and paper strip charts in addition to the new digital data gathering system. Please explain how you use the data gathered from the paper charts in relation to the digital data and why there is a need to continue operating both systems.



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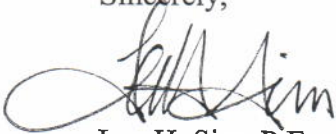
Subject: Sevier River Automation

My goals in meeting with the distribution system committee are: to educate the committee regarding the demands and requirements of maintaining and operating the technology of this new system, to help them see the need for additional technical assistance in maintaining the system, and to hopefully improve compensation to the Sevier River water commissioners.

I know it will take some effort to put this information together and that this is a busy time of year, however, any information you can provide in answering the above questions will be a great assistance in preparing to meet with the committee and achieve these goals. If at all possible, please send this information to me by September 15, 2010.

Thanks for your help. If you have any questions concerning the information I need, please contact me by phone at 801-5378-7380 or by e-mail at LeeSim@utah.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee H. Sim", with a large, stylized loop at the beginning.

Lee H. Sim, P.E.

Assistant State Engineer for Field Services

cc: Kirk Forbush, Regional Engineer